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Articles in Today's Clips

Friday, August 25, 2006

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Published August 25, 2006
[From the Lansing State Journal]

Local news brief

Holland evidence ruling overturned

Court testimony that led to murder charges against Tim and Lisa Holland should not have been made public, Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield ruled Thursday.

Manderfield said evidence presented at a "swear-to" hearing traditionally is not disclosed.

Manderfield overturned a ruling by District Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, who released transcripts of the Feb. 7 hearing, saying the public had an intense interest in the case.

The Ingham County Prosecutor's Office appealed Aquilina's ruling. The Lansing State Journal and WILX-TV initially petitioned the court for release of the testimony.

Dawn Hertz, who represented the State Journal, said Manderfield's decision doesn't mean swear-to hearings in Ingham County won't be made public - it will only affect the timing of that.

She added that the ruling is binding only in Ingham County.

The Hollands are charged with murder and child abuse in the death of their 7-year-old adopted son, Ricky.

Lisa Holland's trial is scheduled to begin Sept. 11; Tim Holland's is set for Jan. 22, 2007.



Baby dead, but how?

Friday, August 25, 2006

LaNIA COLEMAN

THE SAGINAW NEWS

Family members of an infant found dead at a Saginaw Township day care center continue to wait for autopsy results today.

The autopsy was set for 9 a.m. for 10-month-old Charles "Charlie" Bolger, who appears to have strangled in the straps of a car seat Wednesday, said Detective Chad Brooks.

"We received a medical call from 911 with a day care provider saying she had an infant choking in a car seat," Brooks said. "The officers arrived on scene and found the infant lying next to the car seat with marks on its neck. The day care provider indicated the child had become entangled in the restraints while sleeping."

The caregiver placed the baby in the car seat for a nap in the center because all of the cribs were occupied, Brooks said.

He described the caregiver as "extremely distraught."

The child's parents, Frederick and Diane Bolger of Saginaw, declined to name the day care center until at least after the autopsy.

The child's grandmother, Della Luman, said the youngster hadn't learned to talk yet, "but he would make those little noises like babies do."

"We're all doing pretty well, for the most part," she said.

"We just want to know what happened."

An investigator with the state Family Independence Agency, the department that handles day care licensing, also is investigating.

Brooks did not know if the state shut down the day care center -- operated out of the provider's home -- while the investigation continues.

The licensee was the lone adult providing care for seven children, although some were her own, Brooks said.

"If some of the children belong to the day care provider and they are of a certain age, the day care provider is allowed to care for more than six children," he said. "I believe she was within the state guidelines."

Brooks did not know when the care giver obtained her license.

"The investigation is all still very preliminary," the detective said. "After the autopsy confirms the cause of death, we will forward our report to the prosecutor's office and they will make the final determination on what will happen from there."

Saginaw Township Police Chief Donald F. Pussehl Jr. said the incident does not appear suspicious.

"It looks like the baby slid down in the car seat and choked," Pussehl said.

The funeral is 11 a.m. Monday at the W.L. Case & Co. Funeral Home, 4480 Mackinaw in Saginaw Township. Visitation is from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday; and from 10 a.m. until the time of the funeral on Monday.

Neighbor Barbara Kehr remembers the baby as a "cute little guy."

"He had brownish hair and was just a sweet, sweet baby," said Kehr, who lives across the street from the Bolgers.

"They are very nice people. This is sad and it really upsets me. You wonder what went wrong." v

LaNia Coleman and Paul Wyche cover law enforcement for The Saginaw News. You may reach them at 776-9690.

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Accessible weapons and kids don't mix

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Friday, August 25, 2006

By Ken Palmer and Joe Lawlor

JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

FLINT - By now the story is all too familiar.

A child finds a gun in a house and kills another child.

It happened again Thursday, when 9-year-old Victoria Taylor was killed by a blast from a shotgun that had fallen into a child's hands in her home on Baldwin Boulevard in Flint. A relative said her parents had acquired the gun for protection.

It's another sad reminder that firearms - loaded ones, in particular - must not be left where children might find them, police and gun experts said.

"You don't want it to be a loss of life to bring it to people's minds," Flint police Capt. David Porter said. "(But) that's the tragic truth of it.

"You have to do things when you have children in the house to make sure they are safe."

You don't have to go back far to find other examples.

In February 2000, a 6-year-old boy shot and killed a 6-year-old classmate, Kayla Rolland, at Buell Elementary School in Beecher with a loaded handgun he found in his uncle's home.

Two other prominent cases involved another boy, who killed two of his brothers over a four-year span in the late 1980s.

The boy was 8 when he shot his 11-year-old brother with a loaded shotgun. At age 13, he shot and killed a 6-year-old brother with a handgun. The second shooting brought him a second-degree murder conviction in juvenile court.

Guns should always be stored unloaded, in a locked safe or fitted with a lock with keys and ammunition kept hidden, police and gun safety experts say.

All new guns come with trigger locks, and some police agencies provide them for free, said Dan Compeau, chief operating officer for Williams Gun Sight & Outfitters in Davison Township.

QUICK TAKE

Young lives lost

At least seven young people have been killed in shootings this year:

1. DeANDRE D. ROBINSON: The Flint 17-year-old was found shot in an abandoned house at 228 E. Taylor St., on Jan. 23.

2. TRISTEN KIRKLAND: The Flint 18-year-old was shot in a car Jan. 28 on Wood Street near Avenue A.

3. TERREL D. LANG: The 16-year-old was shot near the intersection of Howard Avenue and Lippincott Boulevard on Feb. 18

4. MARQUAN T. HINKLE: The Flint 16-year-old was shot March 11 at Pasadena Avenue and Dupont Street.

5. NIYAUNA S. JONES: The Flint 5-

"You can find a cable lock for three or four bucks, and a good trigger lock is maybe \$10 to \$12," Compeau said.

Things can be more complicated for homeowners who live in high crime areas and want quick access to a gun for protection, Compeau said.

In that case, the best option is a handgun locked in a small safe, inaccessible to children, he said. The gun box can be secured to a closet shelf so it can't be carried away, he said.

Such boxes are available for \$60 to \$150, he said.

In Michigan, parents often face civil neglect allegations if they fail to safeguard children from weapons.

But the state is among 28 that have no "child access prevention" law, which makes it a crime when adults fail to store weapons safely, said Peter Hamm, spokesman for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

It might seem inhumane to charge a parent who has just lost a child, but the laws are a deterrent, Hamm said.

Compeau has another suggestion: Teach gun safety in the schools.

"You hope that by taking a hunter safety class a kid gets it into his head that you never point a gun at anybody, for any reason," he said. "And maybe there's a chance they'll learn that the first thing to do when you handle a gun is to check to see that it's unloaded."

year-old was shot July 6 as she rode in a car along Carpenter Road in Genesee Township.

6. LATESHA TAYLOR: The Flint 18-year-old was shot in the head July 16 while sitting in a parked car at a drive-through party store at Welch Boulevard and Chevrolet Avenue.

7. DEONTE BREWTON: The 18-year-old was shot July 24 at a house on Jane Avenue between Minnesota and N. Franklin avenues.

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Treatment center for children suspends services

[By Carolyn Wyllie, News 3 Reporter](#)

August 24, 2006 - 1:17PM

KALAMAZOO (NEWS 3) - A 100-year old treatment facility for children in Kalamazoo will suspend operations.

The board of directors for Lakeside for Children decided to refocus its mission. Executive Director Don Nitz says the State of Michigan is no longer funding at the same level, and is moving more children into foster care instead of residential treatment.

There are currently 15 children at the site. Lakeside will remain open for 30 days while new homes are found for the children. Lakeside provides respite, diagnostic, and long-term residency for at risk children ages 6-17.

Published August 25, 2006
[From the Lansing State Journal]

More letters to the editor

Kids need stability

Regarding the joint custody bill:

I am an adult whose parents divorced when I was 5. My sister and I lived with my mother, but saw our father often. We have always felt loved and wanted by both parents. Children need that.

However, they also need to feel secure and stable. Bouncing back and forth from one parent to another creates instability. I know children who want to turn 18 because they can't escape their joint custody arrangement fast enough.

Adults who find joint custody a good idea should try it first. That is, live two weeks with one family member, then the next two weeks with another. Move back and forth every two weeks for a year. Now, imagine doing that for the next 10 to 18 years. If you still think joint custody is a good idea after that, you are in a position to advocate for it.

Ana Roosa
Maple Rapids



Attorney general files another charge against pharmacy executive

8/24/2006, 5:46 p.m. ET

The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The state attorney general's office said Thursday it filed a racketeering charge against the president of a Livonia-based provider of pharmacy services.

Daniel Lohmeier was charged with 148 counts of Medicaid fraud last week. The new charge, filed Wednesday, carries a sentence up to 20 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

Attorney General Mike Cox said while Lohmeier was president of Specialized Pharmacy Services Inc., it filed Medicaid claims for patients who were dead and for drugs that weren't used.

Cox says it is the largest criminal health care fraud investigation in state history.

The company is a subsidiary of Covington, Ky.-based Omnicare, which provides pharmacy services to long-term care facilities.

Cox has said more charges could be coming in the investigation, which began in 2003 after a state Department of Community Health audit. The charges announced so far involve about \$5 million in fraud, Cox said. The investigation, which also includes federal agencies, covers a period from 1999 to 2005.

Specialized's pharmacies are located in Livonia, Grand Rapids and West Branch.

On the Net:

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox: <http://www.michigan.gov/ag>

Omnicare: <http://www.omnicare.com>

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Michigan Report

August 24, 2006

COX: CEO WITH 148 MEDICAID FRAUD CHARGES GETS MORE

On Thursday, Attorney General Mike Cox announced that the president of the state's largest long-term care pharmacy, who is already facing 148 counts of Medicaid fraud in what is the largest health care fraud case in Michigan history, will be charged with further counts of racketeering.

The additional charges against Daniel Lohmeier, an Oakland County resident and head of Specialized Pharmacy, were filed with the 54B District Court on Wednesday, and carry what could be an additional sentence of 20 years and/or a \$100,000 fine.

Mr. Lohmeier had been given time off by the company to sort through the issue, a spokesperson said last week (See [Gongwer Michigan Report, August 16, 2006](#)).



Black infant deaths

Last year's better numbers offer hope, suggest progress

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Thursday, August 24, 2006

No statistic on racial gaps touches us more emotionally than the high rate of black infant deaths. Therefore, a new Flint report showing a relatively low mortality among these babies in 2005 offers hope.

Is a multiyear, multifaceted program finally having an impact? Regrettably, we can't be sure, as a long-term pattern must be seen to declare victory. But for those who've been fighting this war in the trenches, some exaltation is allowed over these preliminary numbers: 24 black babies died in 2005 before reaching their first birthday, compared to 44 in 1999, when a federally funded effort began to reduce this death rate that often is triple that of white infants.

Not only are the raw totals encouraging, it's expected that the actual rate of death for 2005, when the figure is known, will show a decline. Such a rare event would suggest that one or more of the local strategies have merit, and should be employed elsewhere.

Though some of these are merely common sense, such as improving the baby care system so mothers get proper prenatal attention, others are creative, including having doctors visit the communities where these mothers live so they know the conditions they face daily.

Unique to this program is an attempt to reduce racism, or perhaps the effects of it, which some observers believe is part of the reason black infants die at a higher rate. While that hypothesis won't be evaluated on its own, it's reasonable to assume that the culture created by the nation's history is related to this problem.

So are poverty, lack of self-esteem, poor parenting skills, and economic and safety factors. Black babies die most often where unemployment and crime rates are high, with the specific causes often attributed to premature birth and low-birth weight.

Yet, for all that's known about this tragic characteristic of black life, a remedy has been elusive, unless last year's Flint numbers indicate real progress. Undoubtedly, local health providers and others who've been involved in this intensive effort are optimistic, not only because of their personal investment but the project's federal funding runs out next year, unless renewed. An inconclusive outcome would be unsatisfactory for them and worse for the newborns they're trying to save.

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Welfare reform: 10 years later

Thursday, August 24, 2006

In retrospect, the national debate over welfare reform a decade ago seems quaint. Today, most agree that removing the obstacles to employment works better than simply handing out checks to capable adults. There isn't much question about the success of the nation's shift to "workfare." The reforms approved by a Republican Congress and President Bill Clinton (after two vetoes) 10 years ago this week shifted the welfare mindset from dependence to empowerment.

And it has worked. More Americans are working or moving toward work. In 1996, there were 4.4 million families in the nation receiving cash assistance. Today, 1.9 million people receive cash assistance. The number of people on welfare in Michigan has dropped nearly in half. Saginaw County's welfare caseload has dropped to about 3,000 -- down from 7,800 in 1990.

The dire predictions of scores of homeless people and children starving in the streets never materialized.

What happened? Many single parents found jobs and obtained additional education as they advanced from welfare to a job and on to a career. The government provided transportation to work or school, and child care assistance -- with the expectation that welfare payments were limited. States were given the latitude to offer their own innovative programs. Working families were given access to health care. Child support collections increased. Earned income tax credits provided an added incentive to work. And the economy improved through most of the past decade.

Poverty remains a huge problem in this country. More families live in poverty in the U.S. than in 1996. Michigan's poverty rate has increased to more than 13 percent in the past five years.

Instead of the welfare poor, the nation now must address its working poor. There remains a need for improved educational opportunities and training -- to get more people into higher-paying fields, such as nursing or skilled trades. And the neediest of the needy -- the disabled and mentally ill -- still require government assistance. Those challenges should temper hard limits on assistance.

The expectation of work has made a positive difference in the lives of many Americans, even if it hasn't eliminated or reduced poverty. There's still work to do -- but capable people are working and that's a sea change to this nation's welfare system.

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This is a printer friendly version of an article
from **The Detroit News**

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August 25, 2006

Let's end traditional welfare in Michigan

State should join rest of nation in imposing time limits

The Detroit News

Welfare reform has marked a decade by increasing income for the poor, cutting caseloads almost 60 percent and not causing the social calamity its critics predicted. But there is still more work to be done to end welfare as we know it, especially in Michigan.

Under former Gov. John Engler, Michigan was a leader in putting more restrictions on welfare recipients and helping to decrease dependency on public assistance. Caseloads plummeted because of these reforms and the vibrant economy of the 1990s.

The national track record is encouraging. Fewer children today live in poverty than in 1995. The earnings of many single moms grew.

But the one reform Michigan has not adopted is a strict time limit on benefits. It is one of the few states that doesn't have limits. This does not give welfare recipients the added incentive to get serious about overcoming personal problems and get to work.

The GOP-dominated Legislature this year proposed a four-year lifetime limit for benefits, with no one receiving more than 24 months of consecutive cash assistance. This was more generous than rules in Ohio and Indiana, but Gov. Jennifer Granholm still opposed it. She last year vetoed an even stricter Republican proposal.

Michigan lags the nation in meeting certain federal welfare rules. The federal government wants at least half of welfare recipients to have jobs, but Michigan falls far short of that standard.

Welfare advocates argue that remaining benefit recipients need more money spent on job training and day care to make it in the working world.

There certainly is a need for day care services and other benefits for single moms, but they aren't a guarantee of success. As Douglas Besharov of the American Enterprise Institute has written, states with and without increased funding for day care and transportation dramatically reduced their caseloads after the welfare reform act of 1996.

At some point, the government must give beneficiaries an additional push to make it on their own. If they fail, charities and faith organizations continue to provide private assistance.

Most states have already ended traditional welfare without unfairly burdening the poor. Michigan should join them.

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Decision delayed on homeless shelter

Friday, August 25, 2006

GREENVILLE -- The Greenville Planning Commission on Thursday put off a decision on a proposed men's homeless shelter so a committee can study its impact on the neighborhood. "This is a way for us to put to rest concerns expressed by residents living in the area, using impartial data as a basis for comparison," Commission Chairman David Ralph said. He will be on the committee with Planning Commissioners Ron Blanding and Dale Reyburn. Residents fear the 10-bed shelter will damage the value of homes in the Evergreen Village and Cedar Crest neighborhoods. Hope Ministries wants to open the shelter/rescue mission in the former Faith Baptist Church at 1015 E. Washington St. The committee will report its findings to the Planning Commission on Sept. 14.

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Jobless rate hits 8 percent

Friday, August 25, 2006

Staff and wire reports

Unemployment in Jackson County climbed to 8 percent in July, the highest monthly rate in two years.

The county's unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in June and 7.3 percent in July 2005.

Payroll jobs in Jackson County fell by 1,500 between June and July, said Leonidas Murembya, a Jackson-based labor market analyst for the Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information.

The largest share of that decline, 700 jobs, is due to a seasonal loss in public schools, Murembya said.

"The public schools continued to lay off people in July," Murembya said. "These are temporary workers, not teachers."

School budget cuts may make some job losses permanent, he said.

"My hunch is it (school employment) is going to be a little bit lower," Murembya said.

Manufacturing employment decreased by 300 jobs due to layoffs associated with auto plant retooling, Murembya said.

He was not certain if manufacturing job losses included the closing of TRW Automotive. The last TRW workers were laid off when the plant closed July 13. Murembya said figures were compiled on the week of July 12.

July is typically a high unemployment month in Jackson County. The rate was 8.5 percent in July 2004. The highest monthly rate in this decade, 9.2 percent, was recorded in July 2003.

Higher unemployment was the pattern in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas in July. Seasonally unadjusted rates rose to a high of 10 percent in Flint and a low of 5 percent in Ann Arbor.

Unlike the regional rates, national and state unemployment rates are seasonally adjusted to remove influences such as production cycles, holidays, model changeovers and climate conditions.

Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7 percent in July, above the national average of 4.8 percent.

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Michigan Report

August 24, 2006

JULY UNEMPLOYMENT RISES IN ALL LOCAL LABOR MARKETS

Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates during July rose in all 17 of Michigan's labor markets, according to figures released Thursday by the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, as labor rates were affected by temporary layoffs in the auto industry.

In a statement, the department said the increases were both seasonal and "substantial in most areas." In the Monroe market, for example, the unemployment rate jumped from 5.9 percent in June to 8.5 percent in July, a rise of 2.6 percentage points. The average increase in a market was 1.2 percentage points, and the Upper Peninsula saw the smallest increase .3 percentage point from 6 percent in June to 6.3 percent in July.

The figures also show the July rate was above the rate for July 2005 in 15 of the markets. Only in Lansing – which saw unemployment jump from 5.7 percent in June to 6.9 percent in July – was below the July 2005 rate of 7 percent. In Muskegon, the July rate of 7.8 percent – up from 6.5 percent in June – matched the July 2005 rate.

Flint had the worst unemployment rate in July, at 10 percent, up from 7.7 percent in June. The Ann Arbor region, at 5 percent, had the lowest unemployment rate for July, up from 4.4 percent in June.

The Detroit-Warren-Livonia market, the state's largest market, saw unemployment jump from 1.2 percentage points from 6.9 percent in June to 8.1 percent in July.

Among counties, Mackinac County had the lowest unemployment rate because of the hot tourist industry at 3.3 percent. Montcalm County had the highest rate at 15.3 percent. Wayne County had a rate of 9.7 percent.

\$10 an hour, 4,000 apply

Many ex-autoworkers seek work at lesser wages

Louis Aguilar / The Detroit News / 8/25/06

STERLING HEIGHTS -- Six years ago, Fred Hibbard, 46, was making \$22.50 an hour as a machinist in a tool and die shop.

On Thursday, he was among some 2,000 job-seekers who lined up for a chance at a \$10-an-hour assembly job with no benefits with a French auto parts supplier.

Faurecia SA, which has facilities in four Metro Detroit communities, drew an estimated 4,000 people, many of them former auto workers like Hibbard, over the two days of its job fair Wednesday and Thursday, a sign of the times in a state where the unemployment rate hovers at 7 percent.

The long line of job applicants Thursday snaked through a city park outside the Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation Center, the site of Faurecia's job fair. It was just around the corner from where Hibbard used to work.

"That tool and die shop is dead," he said. "And now, I could really use this job. Ten dollars an hour is a lot better than living on your 401(k)."

Out of 17 job applicants queried by The News on Thursday, eight of them once had auto factory jobs that offered higher hourly wages and health benefits; 14 currently have jobs that pay less than \$10 an hour; 11 have children; and only two have health insurance.

Many said they wouldn't have considered taking a \$10 an hour job just a few years ago.

But times have changed in Michigan, with an unemployment rate among the highest in the nation and high-paying factory jobs dwindling by the month.

"I've pretty much given up trying to get a job that pays \$20 an hour," said Pebble VanConant, a veteran toolmaker who was making that kind of money five years ago. Her firm closed, she said, because the company kept losing work to Chinese and Mexican firms willing to do the same jobs at a much lower rate.

"Five years ago, if you would have offered me this job I would have laughed at you," said Debbie Kowalke, a former administrative assistant who was downsized and now "just survives" on a waitressing job. She wants to work at Faurecia and still keep the restaurant job, she said.

"I really need this. And look, I'm not the only one," she said.

Hiring bright spot

It was unclear how many people the auto supplier would ultimately hire. Representatives from Faurecia could not be reached for comment Thursday.

The company specializes in automotive modules for interiors, such as seats and exhaust systems. It supplies its parts to General Motors Corp, Ford Motor Co., DaimlerChrysler AG, BMW and Volkswagen.

The fact that Faurecia is hiring at all is the exception right now for the state's auto industry.

The high unemployment rate of the past year in large part is because of massive job cuts at GM, Delphi and Ford, which have trickled down to other industries.

Earlier this year, 47,600 union workers at GM and bankrupt supplier Delphi Corp. accepted early retirement offers or cash buyouts.

Last year, Ford eliminated some 3,000 white-collar positions in North America. Another 4,000 salaried jobs and as many as 30,000 factory jobs by 2012 are to be cut as part of its restructuring plan announced in January.

Ford is weighing a major expansion of its attrition program for hourly workers and could extend buyout or early retirement offers to all of its blue-collar employees in the United States.

By year's end, Michigan will have 20,000 fewer auto jobs than it did at the start of 2006, predicts Comerica Inc. Chief Economist Dana Johnson. Michigan has lost over 200,000 manufacturing jobs since 1999.

You can reach Louis Aguilar at (313) 222-2760 or laguilar@detnews.com.

Daycare owners missing government checks

[Colleen Chen, News 3 Reporter](#)

August 24, 2006 - 11:37PM

(NEWS 3) - As many as 2,700 checks are missing for some child daycare providers in West Michigan.

The government-issued checks were supposed to arrive in mailboxes about a week ago, mostly at home-run daycares.

Caregivers like Amy Mains and Lisa Bailey are frustrated and worried. The women run daycare facilities in their home. As each day goes by without a check, their finances become more strained.

"It's causing us not to be able to pay our utilities," said Bailey. "We can't buy groceries. I can't keep my bills up. Basically I'm not going to be able to run my daycare if I don't get some money to pay these bills."

The Michigan Department of Human Services is working on finding the checks. In the meantime, it's trying to issue emergency checks to those who need it.

Watch our report by News 3's Colleen Chen.

If you are one of the owners affected, DHS recommends the following steps to get emergency funds:

1. Go to your local DHS branch and fill out a stop payment form. Your information will then go into their system.
2. Call the central office at 1-800-444-5364



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

MARIANNE UDOW
DIRECTOR

News Release

**Contact: Stepheni Schlinker or
Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394**

Michigan Department of Human Services Summarily Suspends the Group Day Care Home License #DG250257217 of Davonn Jones

August 24, 2006

The Michigan Department of Human Services' Office of Children and Adult Licensing (OCAL) issued an order of summary suspension and notice of intent to revoke the license of Genesee County group day care home provider Davonn Jones, 6412 Garden Drive, Mt. Morris, Michigan. This action resulted from a recent investigation of a complaint of the child day care group home.

The August 23, 2006, complaint investigation found violations of the Child Care Organizations Act and administrative rules regarding the child care home family, supervision, and licensee responsibilities. OCAL took emergency action to protect the health, welfare, and safety of children.

Effective 6:00 p.m., August 24, 2006, the Summary Suspension Order prohibits Davonn Jones from operating a group day care home at 6412 Garden Drive, Mt. Morris, Michigan, or at any other address or location. Accordingly, she may not accept children for care after that date and time. The order also requires Ms. Jones to inform all of the parents of children in her care that her license has been suspended and that she can no longer provide day care.

Ms. Jones has held a license to operate a group day care home since June 12, 1998. The license was for 12 children.

Michigan law defines a group day care home as a private home in which more than six but not more than 12 minor children are given care and supervision for periods of less than 24 hours a day, unattended by a parent or legal guardian, except children related to an adult member of the family by blood, marriage, or adoption. Group day care home includes a home that gives care to an unrelated minor child for more than four weeks during a calendar year.

News Release

Contact: Stepheni Schlinker or Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394

Tribal Child Task Force works to improve early childhood programs for Michigan's tribal children

August 25, 2006

LANSING – Michigan Department of Human Services Director Marianne Udow will address “Future Search Conference: Tribal Early Care and Education Programs and Services” Aug. 28-30 in Acme at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. The Michigan Child Tribal Task Force will sponsor the event.

The Tribal Child Task Force, formed in November 2005, evolved from the efforts of the Department of Human Services and the social service directors from the 12 federally-recognized Native American tribes in Michigan. Its focus is to develop a coordinated vision and service delivery system that focuses on the preservation of Indian families. Additionally, the task force complies with federal rules and regulations that require collaboration in delivering services to Native American children and families to protect, preserve and strengthen Native American children and families both on and off tribal lands.

“Developing a comprehensive framework that allows all our agencies to partner will improve services for Michigan’s Native peoples and continue our efforts to protect and preserve strong kinship relationships and important cultural traditions,” Udow said.

Invited participants include officials from the Department of Human Services, Office of the Governor, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Children and Families Office, Michigan Departments of Education and Community Health, Michigan’s 12 federally recognized Native American tribes, and many others. Udow will be presenting Wednesday’s luncheon address.

Conference participants will develop and create a sustainable infrastructure for increased and improved early childhood programs and services for Michigan’s tribal children and their families.

For more information go to www.michigan.gov/dhs

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